



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

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## Thailand

### Livestock and Products

## BSE Confusion Reigns: U.S. Beef Stocks in Thailand 2004

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**Report Highlights:**

The Royal Thai Government (RTG), through its Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC), has issued several official statements regarding the importation of U.S. beef since the discovery of a BSE-positive result was announced in the United States.

Similar to most countries, Thailand has temporarily banned the importation of U.S. beef. However, alone in its more draconian move, the MOPH has directed that food service outlets and retailers return existing stocks of U.S. beef to suppliers. Notification was not universal and compliance with the guidance is also not uniform.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Bangkok [TH1]  
[TH]

## Ban on U.S. Beef: The Scope

The Royal Thai Government (RTG) has implemented a ban on imports of beef from the United States. The RTG Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) notified that it would no longer pass inspection on U.S. beef as of December 24, 2003. MOAC has indicated that it will allow, however, the importation of low-risk bovine products, following the guidance from the Office of International Epizootics (OIE). MOAC will also not allow the importation of meat and bone meal from the United States.

## Draconian Measures

RTG Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) has issued three official notifications to food service and retail outlets advising them to stop selling or serving U.S. beef. Additionally, MOPH instructed these businesses to return the U.S. beef to the suppliers. A survey of restaurants and retailers in the greater Bangkok area indicates that not all entities received the notification and compliance with the notification, even among those who did receive the instructions, is not uniform or complete.

## Appeal for Rational Controls

USG and industry officials have asked RTG/MOPH officials to follow the prevailing international practice regarding existing stocks of U.S. beef in the importing country, i.e., allow it to be sold and served. MOPH has not responded to this official request.

## RTG Cannot Focus on U.S. Beef Now; Chicken Disease Wreaking Havoc

Lack of response from the RTG is somewhat understandable at this particular moment. The RTG, especially the MOAC and MOPH, is completely overwhelmed trying to cope with an enormous outbreak of avian disease (purported to be fowl cholera) which is destroying sizeable parts of the domestic poultry industry and is beginning to have an impact on poultry exports.

End of report.